

U.S.S.N. 10/006,364

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PD-201121

**In The Specification:**

Please change the title as follows:

VIRTUAL PORT BRIDGE METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
COMMUNICATING BETWEEN DIVERGENT NETWORKS USING MEDIA  
ACCESS CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS

Page 4, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 11-22.

In another approach Dobbins *et al.* (USP 5,751,971 and USP 5,790,546) disclose an apparatus and method wherein multiple router interfaces are assigned the same IP network address, creating an IP work group. This apparatus allows a host to be relocated anywhere in the work group without requiring reconfiguration of the host. Furthermore, Dobbins *et al.* discloses a technique for using an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) request so that a host on one interface (first host) may locate a host on another interface (second host). The drawback with Dobbins *et al.* is that Dobbins requires packets to completely traverse the IP stack twice (once up, once down) before they are routed out the correct interface. This ~~provide~~ provides a ~~burden~~ burden on LAN cross-segment traffic. Furthermore, the techniques of Dobbins *et al.* age out, causing deferral of IP packets in caches, as well as a repeated need to send out broadcast ARP requests in order to determine the IP address of the second host.

Page 7, please replace lines 11 and 12 under the heading "Brief Description of the Drawings", as follows:

~~FIG. 4 illustrates~~ FIGS. 4A and 4B illustrate processing steps in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.